MY GIRL

でも、帰ついてくれて
ありかとう……。

マイガール

佐原ミズ

4

カバーデザイン　竹内亮輔

BUNCH COMICS
マイガール
4
佐原ミズ
新潮社

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天気になあれ——
キミの涙が乾くよう。

風が怒った雨降りの日。コハルが出会ったクリーニング屋のお姉さん・由紗は、天国にいるあの人にソックリで…。以来、二人は心の距離を縮めて仲良しになった。一方で正宗は、娘の気持ちが自分から離れてゆくように思えて、心の空が曇りがち　。

BUNCH COMICS
マイガール

MY GIRL 4

Pleasure To Live With You

MIZU SAHARA

MAGICIAN GIRL

The 27th Day:
The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ①

SAHARA MIZU

Due to the incoming typhoon, expect rain and strong winds until this evening...
BLAST
wah!

ARE YOU OKAY?

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You

The 27th Day
The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ① 001

The 28th Day
The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ② 027

The 29th Day
The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ③ 045

The 30th Day
A Companion of the Heart 070

The 31st Day·
The Shape of Marriage · 095

The 32nd Day
Your Feelings, My Feelings 121

The 33rd Day
Rainy-Day Coward 145

WHOOM WHOOM

FINISHED DRYING OFF?
OH!
LIAR...
YOUR HAIR'S STILL DRIPPING.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
I... I'M SORRY!
Y-
YES...
I'LL DRY IT BETTER...

COME HERE.
I'LL HELP YOU

WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES?
I DRIED THE ONES YOU WERE WEARING, BUT...
THE RAIN'S LETTING UP...
IT SHOULD BE SAFE TO GO HOME
YEAH...

OH YEAH...
THERE ARE SOME ABANDONED ONES THAT MIGHT WORK...
ARE THESE ALL CLOTHES PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT?
YES SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T COME TO GET THEM EVEN AFTER YOU CONTACT THEM
I'M SURE THERE WAS SOME CHILDREN'S CLOTHING AROUND HERE...
AH-HA!
THERE IT IS!
...OR SO I THOUGHT, BUT THIS WON'T DO
BASEBALL
03
IT'S FOR A BOY

....
YES...
IS THAT OKAY?
BUT IT'S BOYS' CLOTHING
I..
I'LL WEAR IT
I'LL WEAR IT
IT'S TOO BAD, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN USE THAT UMBRELLA ANYMORE
I'll throw it out for you

BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOUR STORE?
TWAP
WE'RE CLOSED FOR NOW. BESIDES...
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO WANTED...
TO OPEN UP THIS STORE...
...

IT'S STILL PRETTY WINDY
IF YOUR MOM GETS MAD ABOUT THE UMBRELLA, JUST BLAME THE WIND
REALLY? ME NEITHER
I DON'T HAVE A MOM ANYMORE
SO IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM

UP UNTIL LAST WEEK I WAS WORKING AT A COMPANY AND LIVING ON MY OWN
IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN
I WAS ALWAYS THINKING I'D MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE A BETTER DAUGHTER ONCE I HAD SOME SPARE TIME
BUT I NEVER GOT FURTHER THAN JUST THINKING ABOUT IT
THE LAUNDRY STORE WAS HER'S
I'D NEVER EVEN HELPED HER OUT WITH IT
SO I'M REALLY CONFLICTED ABOUT WHAT TO DO
WHEN I'M ALONE IN THE HOUSE AT NIGHT,
SOMETIMES I GET IN A WEIRD MOOD AND THINK THINGS LIKE...
"THE FRONT DOOR MIGHT OPEN," AND...
"ISN'T SHE COMING HOME?"
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER IT'LL GO ON
...Hmm.

BACK THEN I COULDN'T COUNT FAST TEN...
I'D OPEN IT MYSELF AND GO SEARCHING FOR HER.
I DECIDED THAT I'D WAIT THE NUMBER OF MY FINGERS AND IF IT HADN'T OPENED,
AFTER TEN DAYS I WENT OUT,
BUT COULDN'T FIND HER AFTER ALL
STILL, I FOUND SOMEONE WHO'S AS IMPORTANT TO ME AS MY MAMA, SO I'M GLAD I WENT OUT.
THEN...
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY THAT TOO...

IF SHE HASN'T COME BACK AFTER TEN DAYS,
I'LL TRY GIVING THE WASHING MACHINE A SPIN
WELL IS THAT SO!
YEAH,
THERE REALLY ARE SOME NICE PEOPLE OUT THERE.
THAT'S GREAT!
ALSO, SHE
WAS A LITTLE BIT LIKE MAMA.

EH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS...
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER WAS SIMILAR
A... ANYWAY, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THESE BOYS' CLOTHES?
GIVE THEM TO SHUU-KUN?
OH
I'LL WEAR THEM
THAT'S NICE...

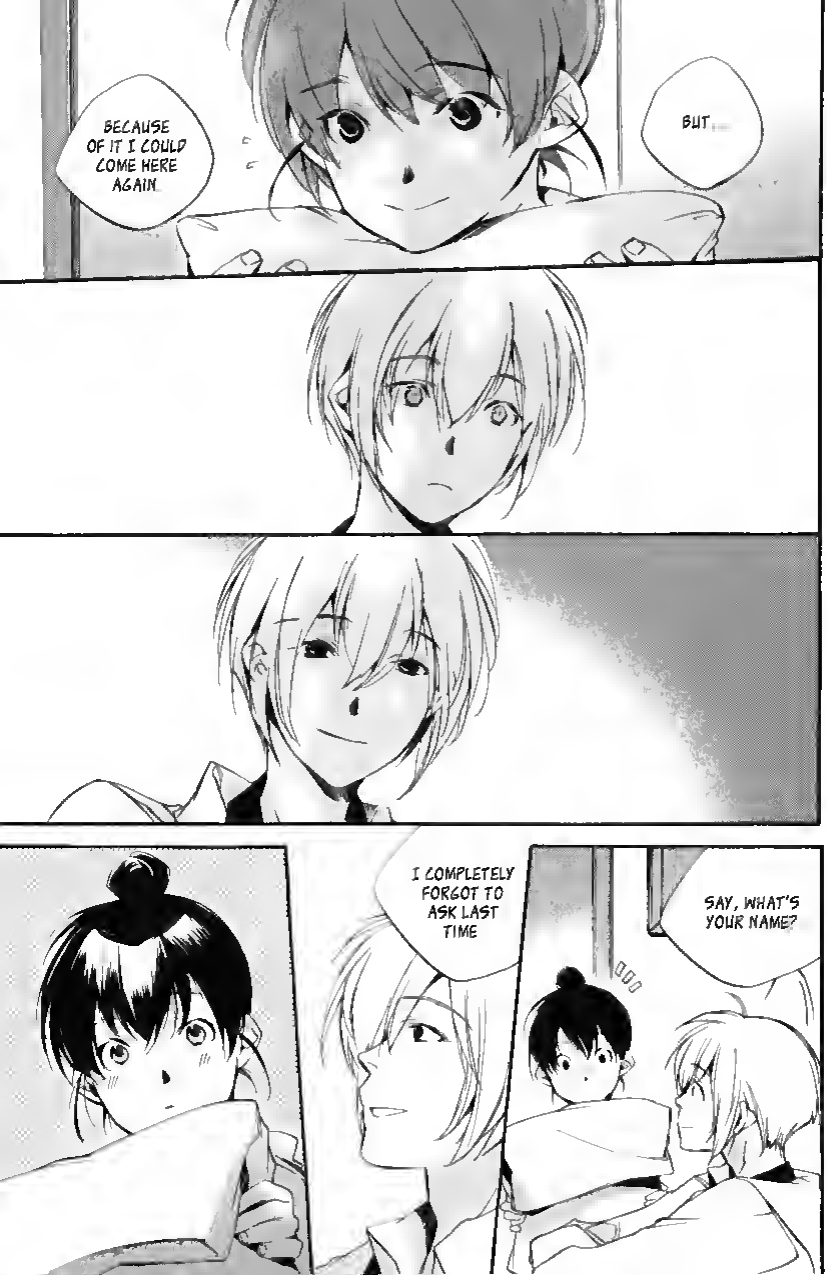
AHHHH! SHOOT!
A LONG TIME AGO... MAMA MADE A MISTAKE AND ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT ME BOYS' CLOTHING
BUT THEY'RE FOR A BOY...
THE CLOTHES THEY SENT ARE FOR A BOY...
I MADE A MISTAKE, THE PRODUCT CODE WAS OFF BY JUST ONE NUMBER!
THIS WAS ON SALE, SO THEY WON'T LET ME RETURN IT.
SORRY, BUT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TRY WEARING IT?
OH! LOOK AT THAT!!
IT SUITS YOU, KOHARU!!

I'M SORRY!
THAT'S NOT IT! THE ONE I PICKED HAS MR. GIRAFFE!
I'M SORRY, OKAY!?
IT DOESN'T SUIT ME!
I'LL NEVER WEAR THAT!
I'M SORRY.
AH, GEEZ, CRYING AGAIN?
YOU'RE DUMB, MAMAAA!
I'M SORRY, KOHARU.

I'LL SEE IF I CAN'T EXCHANGE IT.
COME NOW, DON'T CRY...
BUT I JUST CRIED AND REFUSED TO WEAR IT.
SO I WANT TO WEAR THIS.

MOVE!
COME ON, SPIN!
SHUFFLE
WHAT'S WRONG, MASAMUNE-KUN?
Darn thing!
IT SEEMS THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE WASHING MACHINE
WELL YOU KNOW,
IT'S JUST NOT SPINNING
OH, SORRY!
DID I WAKE YOU UP?

I KNOW A PLACE WITH ONES THAT SPIN!
CAN I TAKE OUR CLOTHES THERE TO BE WASHED?
HI LAUNDRY
KINOUCHI LAUNDRY
OUR WASHING MACHINE WON'T SPIN...
IT'S BROKEN? HOW AWFUL
H-
HELLO
OH! YOU'RE...
WELCOME!
WHIRR


BECAUSE OF IT I COULD COME HERE AGAIN.
BUT...
I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO ASK LAST TIME
SAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

The 27th Day:FIN

I HAPPENED TO GLANCE UP, AND SAW A LADYBUG ON THE CEILING
IT'S REALLY NOISY
SMACK
BZZZT
SMACK
BUT
BUG KILLER
Glance
NO, YOU MUSN'T!

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 28th Day:
The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ②

C'MOOON! LET'S GO FOR A DRINK!
NO WAY!
DON'T INVITE ME JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE RUN OUT OF MONEY TO GO TO YOUR HOSTESS BAR!
UMM...
!
IF IT'S JUST ONE DRINK...
I CAN GO OUT WITH YOU...
HUH?

YOU LIED TO KOHARU ABOUT YOUR WASHING MACHINE BEING BROKEN?
SHE TOLD ME THAT THE OWNER OF THE LAUNDRY SERVICE LOOKS A BIT LIKE HER DECEASED MOTHER...
AT FIRST I WAS JUST THINKING I NEEDED TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HER...
BUT NOW WHENEVER I GET HOME THERE'S A NOTE LEFT ON THE TABLE.
THAT SHE'S GETTING HELP WITH HER HOMEWORK,
OR EATING DINNER OVER THERE
SHE'S ALWAYS FINDING SOME REASON TO GO TO THAT WOMAN'S PLACE
Masamune-kun,
I'm going over to the laundry lady's.
Koharu
THE OTHER DAY SHE DIDN'T COME HOME UNTIL NINE!
NINE AT NIGHT!!
I KNOW I STILL HAVE WORK TO DO WHEN IT COMES TO BEING A PROPER FATHER,
BUT...

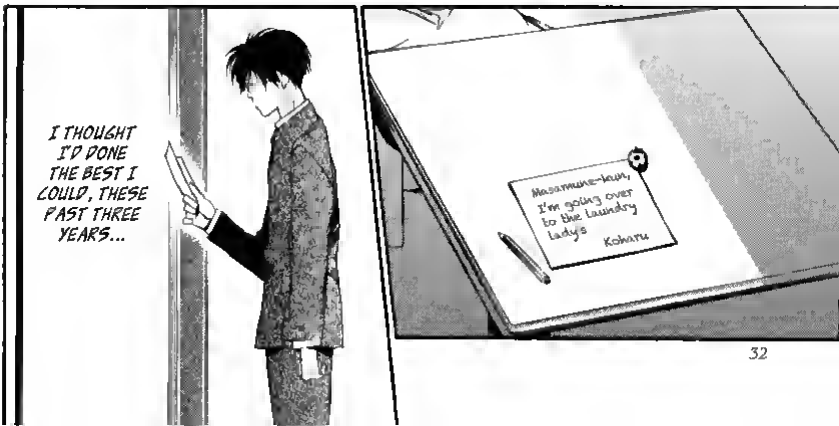
I INTENDED TO DO ALL THE THINGS A MOTHER WOULD FOR HER...
BUT I GUESS THAT WAS WISHFUL THINKING...

clatter
I CHOSE THE WRONG PERSON TO DISCUSS THIS WITH
I'M GOING HOME...
NOW I GET WHY THE GUY WHO'S HYPER-DILIGENT ABOUT ALWAYS RUSHING HOME ON TIME ACTUALLY CAME OUT FOR A DRINK!
CACKLE
CACKLE
CACKLE
THE LAUNDRY LADY STOLE KOHARU FROM YOU!?
HOW LAME!

WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
HUH?
EITHER WAY, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
WHEN SOMEONE IT BECAME SECOND-NATURE TO HAVE AROUND SUDDENLY GOES MISSING, YOU LONG FOR THEM ALL THE MORE
AND THEY'VE ALWAYS SAID THE MOTHER'S ROLE IS INCOMPARABLE
I THINK YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB.
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SHE'LL GET BORED AND COME BACK HOME
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

.....
EVEN FOR ME, IT TOOK SO MANY YEARS TO BE ABLE TO CALMLY THINK ABOUT YOUKO-SAN...
HOW MUCH HARDER IT MUST BE FOR A YOUNG CHILD

I'M HOME...
STILL...


I THOUGHT I'D DONE THE BEST I COULD, THESE PAST THREE YEARS...
Masamune-kun I've going over to the Laundry Lady's
Kaharu

BUT TO HAVE HER SUDDENLY TAKEN AWAY BY A COMPLETE STRANGER,
MAKES ME REALIZE HOW USELESS I AM...
.....
WHISK

I HAVE A CRAM SCHOOL TEST AT 2 O'CLOCK TODAY...
DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU?
SINCE IT'S A SUNDAY AND THE WEATHER IS NICE, DO YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE?
K... KOHARU-CHAN...
EH!?
OH...
14 15
Koharu's test
I'm sorry...
I'M THE ONE WHO FORGOT...
WELL... THEN I GUESS I'LL GET SOME LAUNDRY DONE.
!
THE WASHING MACHINE'S FIXED!?

UH...
NO...
NOT YET...
ONCE MORE LAUNDRY'S PILED UP.
YOU WANNA TAKE IT TO THE LAUNDRY PLACE AGAIN?
PLEASE...
YEAH!
Be careful!
I'll come pick you up
See you later!
DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY ABOUT IT...

HOW FOOLISH I WAS...

I'M...
GOING TO THE LAUNDRY LADY'S PLACE!

Sigh..
HELLO.

KAZAMA-SAN... RIGHT?
I'M FROM KINOUCHI LAUNDRY
I FIGURED THIS WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOUR DAUGHTER TO CARRY, SO I CAME TO DELIVER IT...
THIS IS HER ..!
OH... THANK YOU...
T/N ABOUT $60
LET'S SEE... THE TOTAL IS 4880 YEN.
THANK YOU...
FOR ALL OF YOUR BUSINESS RECENTLY...
DOES SHE REALLY LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE YOUKO-SAN...?
Stare..
I DON'T THINK SHE DOES, BUT...

EH?
UMM
OH.
THE BILL, RIGHT
I'M SORRY.
WAIT JUST A MINUTE PLEASE
UMM IF YOU'D LIKE, SHALL I TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR WASHING MACHINE?
EH?
I HEARD IT WAS BROKEN
IT MUST BE INCONVENIENT, RIGHT?
NO WELL, THE THING ABOUT IT BEING BROKEN WAS
I'M ALWAYS GETTING FLIERS FROM REPAIR COMPANIES, SO I BROUGHT SOME. IF YOU'D LIKE
HUH?

.....
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE USING YOUR KID FOR SOME PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO HIT ON ME?
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
WELL, THAT IS...
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT BROKEN...
HUH?
I KNOW YOU'RE A YOUNG FATHER, BUT TO THINK YOU'RE THAT IMMATURE...
I FEEL SORRY FOR KOHARU...
WELL YOU'RE PRETTY FULL OF YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU!!?
IT'S NOT LIKE I TOLD THIS STUPID LIE BECAUSE I WANTED TO!

I DON'T WANT TO BE AN INCOMPETENT FATHER.
I'M WELL AWARE THAT I'M NOT ABLE TO BE HER COMPLETE SUPPORT.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE FOR THAT, EITHER!
LOOKING AT HER, WHO SO CLEARLY WANTED TO GO SEE THE WOMAN WHO SLIGHTLY RESEMBLES HER LATE MOTHER,
ANY PARENT WOULD THINK THEY HAD TO MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HER TO DO SO
EH?
BUT
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE UNREASONABLE?
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SHOWING HER KINDNESS,
BUT THE MEALS, AND THE CLOTHES, AND COMING HOME AT 9 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT! THAT'S ALREADY BEDTIME, FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT!
I'VE BEEN DOING THE BEST I CAN TO HELP HER WITH HER HOMEWORK SO SHE'S PREPARED FOR LESSONS,
AND YOU JUST...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH TROUBLE I GO TO PLANNING DINNER...
AND THEN KOHARU-CHAN DOESN'T EVEN COME HOME...
EH...

IT SEEMS I'VE MADE YOU FEEL JEALOUS!
chuckle
I'M SORRY!
WHA!?
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HOW ENVIABLE
KOHARU'S A LUCKY GIRL, HUH!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HE HE...
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON

The 28th Day:FIN

EEH!?
A fire's braken aut in the apartment complex ocross the street!! There's a chance it will spread, so please evacuate!!
WHA... WHAT TO DO!? WHAT SHOULD I DO!? FOR NOW, MY WALLET AND MY CELL...
!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!
A GAP IN THE MAGA-ZINE...
AND THERE ENDS UP BEING...
My supervisor who has developed a potbelly
GRA
AR!
IF YOU LEAVE THE MANU-SCRIPT BEHIND.
I KNOW HOW IT LOOKS, BUT THIS COULD SAVE MY LIFE...
I'm sorry...
Firefight
HEY, YOU!! WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING A FILE OF PAPERS OUT FOR, AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 29th Day: The Washing Machine That Won't Spin ③

THE LAUNDRY'S PILED UP AGAIN...
MASAMUNE-KUN...
DO YOU WANT SOME JUICE?

!
THANKS!
ACTUALLY THE LAUNDRY'S REALLY PILED UP, SO YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE LAUNDRY PLACE
NO THANKS.
.....

T/N: RAKUGO IS A STYLE OF COMEDIC PERFORMANCE IN WHICH THE COMEDIAN SITS ONSTAGE AND TELLS A STORY, PLAYING THE ROLES OF ALL CHARACTERS HIMSELF

A... RAKUGO... PERFORMANCE?
KINOUCHI LAU
YES, THAT'S RIGHT
YOUR MOTHER AND I WERE ALWAYS CHASING AFTER AMATEUR PERFORMERS!
THIRTEENTH PERFORMANCE
NIGHT FESTIVAL
DOORS OPEN: 9PM
CURTAIN RISES: 9:30PM
"CHASING AFTER"— MY MOM WAS DOING SUCH A GIRLISH THING?
I.. HAD NO IDEA...

Y... YEAH
THANK YOU.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I HAVE SOME PICTURES I'D BEEN MEANING TO GIVE HER
I'M SURE SHE'D BE HAPPY IF YOU LEFT THEM AS AN OFFERING BEFORE THE SHOW
OH, RIGHT
ALSO...
I HAVE MY HUSBAND'S SHIRTS FOR CLEANING...
NIGHT FESTIVAL

WHOA... SHE'S REALLY LIVING IT UP...
THINK ABOUT YOUR AGE, MOM...

BUT...
SHE'S SMILING IN ALL OF THEM...
PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
DOORS OPEN 9PM
CURTAIN RISES 9:30PM
××××
×××
××××××

THANK YOU!
KINOUCHI
!

HELLO!
OUR LAUNDRY PILED UP AGAIN, SO I BROUGHT IT TO BE CLEANED
HERE YOU GO
.....
KOHARU, DO I LOOK LIKE YOUR MOM?
!
JU...
JUST A LITTLE

EH?
YOU KNOW,
I'M REALLY GLAD I FOLLOWED YOUR ADVICE AND DECIDED TO KEEP THE STORE OPEN...
FROM THE CUSTOMERS
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HEAR A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT MY MOM...
WELL I'M HONORED...
Ha ha...
I SEE...
...DURING THAT TIME I WAS WORKING AND COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO COME HOME...
I GOT TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT SHE WAS THINKING, WHAT SORT OF THINGS SHE WAS INTERESTED IN...

EVEN IF I REGRET IT, AND TRY TO LEARN ABOUT HER LIFE,
IT'S ONLY FOR MY OWN SELF-SATISFACTION.
I'M HAPPY TO INDULGE YOU ON OCCASION, BUT...
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD DO IT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAUSES TROUBLE FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
BUT IN THE END, ALL I CAN DO IS CHASE AFTER MEMORIES...
YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND TRY PLUGGING IN...
YOUR WASHING MACHINE...

I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER LOVED YOU VERY MUCH, KOHARU-CHAN...
EH?
...BUT YOU ALSO HAVE A FATHER WHO WON'T LOSE WHEN IT COMES TO LOVING YOU, AND HE'S ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU
KOHARU, YOU STILL HAVE A WONDERFUL FATHER AROUND
YOU SHOULD BE A FILIAL DAUGHTER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE DO WHAT I COULDN'T..

click
BEEP
EMAIL

WHOOM
WHOOM

WELL THEN, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, KAZAMA-SAN.
YES, SEE YOU LATER.
OH, YOU'RE BACK ALREADY KOHARU-CHAN?
WHOOM
WHOOM
FAST...
THAT WAS...

AH!
DASH
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
SHOOT
SH...
peek

H... HEY, KOHARU-CHAN,
YOU WANT A COOKIE?
NOT RIGHT NOW..
OH...
O...OKAY...

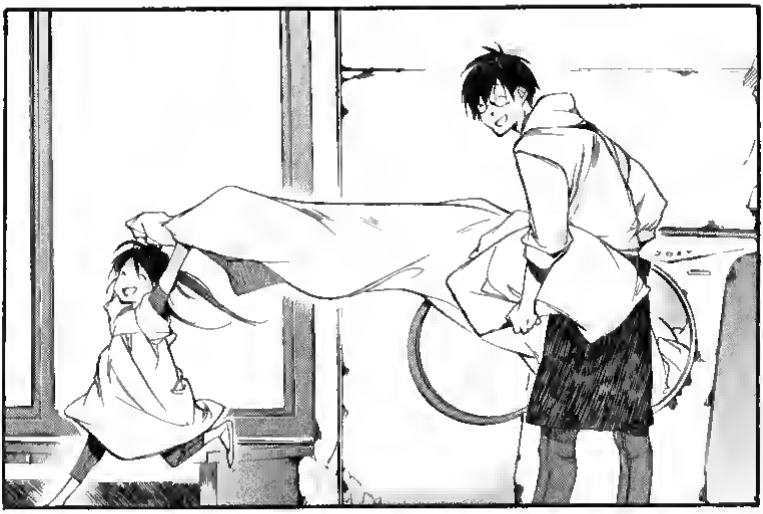
I'M SO SORRY!
I...
THE REAL REASON IS, I CAN'T TAKE YOUKO-SAN'S PLACE AND I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE A SUBSTITUTE FOR HER
NO, MORE THAN THAT...
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL A CHILD,
AND YOUR SENSE OF LOSS IS MUCH GREATER THAN MINE, SO I THOUGHTLESSLY TOLD THAT LIE
ON ONE HAND I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...
BUT EVERY TIME I LIED IT GOT HARDER AND HARDER TO TELL THE TRUTH
SHEESH! DOING THIS WHO'S THE CHILD, HERE?

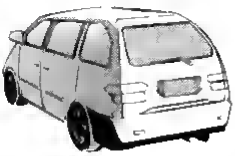
I FEEL LIKE...
I DON'T REMEMBER MAMA AS WELL AS I USED TO...
HUH?
EH...?
BUT SOMETIMES I CAN'T REMEMBER THEM VERY WELL...
I WAS SURE I REMEMBERED SO MANY THINGS ABOUT HER...
LIKE WHAT SORT OF THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT...

BEFORE, I WAS SO LONELY, I SPENT EVERY DAY THINKING ABOUT MAMA...
WHY IS IT I DON'T THINK ABOUT HER AS MUCH ANY MORE...?
IF I FORGOT ABOUT HER COMPLETELY I WOULD FEEL SO SORRY FOR MAMA...
I'VE BEEN THINKING IT WAS SO AWFUL OF ME TO FORGET ABOUT HER, AND LOOKING FOR PARTS OF MAMA WHEREVER I COULD...
BUT I KNEW
IT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT SO LONELY NOW
WHY I DON'T THINK ABOUT MAMA AS MUCH...
BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE FOR ME, MASAMUNE-KUN.

MASAMUNE-KUN...
I...
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU LIE...
DID SOMETHING EVEN WORSE...
BUT...
THANK YOU FOR LYING FOR ME...

IT'S OKAY...





The 29th Day:FIN

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live Wit You

TAP TAP
FINALLY DONE...
I SHOULD PICK UP THE INGREDIENTS FOR DINNER AND HEAD HOME.
EHHH!? MATSUSHITA-SAN, YOU'RE GOING TO AN OMIAI!?
T/N: AN OMIAI IS A MEETING BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE (AND SOMETIMES THEIR FAMILIES) WHO ARE HOPING TO GET MARRIED
WHEN?
SATURDAY
TOMORROW? THAT'S SO SOON!

I WAS THINKING AN OMIAI IS PRETTY OLD-FASHIONED
BUT ONE OF MY UNCLES WAS SO INSISTENT
I FIGURED I COULD GO, JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT
OOH, THAT SOUNDS NICE LATELY MARRIAGE MATCHMAKING'S GOTTEN TRENDY
I'm so jealous!
HOLD ON YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED AND QUIT BEFORE ME
chatter
chatter
I'M HEADING HOME
THEY SEEM KIND OF WORKED UP TODAY

AN OMIAI!?
HUH?
IT'S LIKE THIS...!!
IT WAS A FAVOR FOR A CUSTOMER, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND AN OMIAI PARTNER AND NOW I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIT THERE..
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
BARGING IN HERE AT THIS HOUR, AND SUDDENLY SPRINGING SOMETHING LIKE THIS ON ME...
BESIDES, FILLING IN AS AN INSINCERE SUBSTITUTE WOULD BE RUDE TO THE WOMAN!
THEN ATTEND IT SERIOUSLY!

AND WHY IS YOUKO-SAN'S MOTHER HERE, TOO?
Hmph!
W-WELL, THAT'S
I THOUGHT SHE COULD HELP ME CONVINCE YOU SO I WENT TO DISCUSS IT WITH HER, BUT SHE ENDED UP GETTING EVEN MORE INTO IT THAN ME.
YOU MUST GO TO THIS OMIAI, MASAMUNE-KUN!
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO STAY SINGLE FOREVER!?
PLEASE CALM DOWN, MOTHER!
Please stop meddling
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ME BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUKO-SAN...

BESIDES, SEE
I'M NOT ALONE.
YOUKO-SAN LEFT ME KOHARU-CHAN.
STOP DELUDING YOURSELF

I...
I'M NOT TAKING THIS LIGHTLY...
I'VE PREPARED MYSELF FOR THAT...
AS A UNWED MOTHER WHO RAISED YOUKO BY MYSELF, I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT
YOU'RE BEING NAIVE.
OF COURSE THERE IS A PERIOD WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ALL YOU NEED IN YOUR LIFE.
BUT THERE ARE INNUMERABLE WAYS IN WHICH SHE CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE
OF COURSE I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE...
AND FOR KOHAKU-CHAN'S SAKE, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING...
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT RAISING A CHILD...
I'M BEGGING YOU, DON'T LIMIT YOUR OPTIONS LIKE THIS...
I'M SURE IT WOULD GIVE YOUKO PEACE OF MIND...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU GO TO THIS OMIAI,
YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT GETTING MARRIED TO THE WOMAN RIGHT AWAY.
BUT EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, I WANT YOU TO START LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE...
Eek!
MAYBE I'M BEING SELFISH, ASKING THIS OF YOU...
Uuh...

IS THAT THE WOMAN COMING TO TODAY'S OMIAI?
YEAH, SEEMS SO.
SHE'S VERY PRETTY...
YEAH ...
SO AN OMIAI IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GET MARRIED DO?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

DO YOU...
...WANT TO GET MARRIED, MASAMUNE-KUN?
A LONG TIME AGO
I GUESS I DID...

KAZAMA-SAN, ARE YOU READY?
OH... YES...
REALLY!? WELL THAT'S CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION
REMEMBER ANNA-CHAN? SHE TOLD ME THAT AFTER SHE GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, SHE'S GOING TO GET MARRIED!
OH YEAH!
...I SEE.
WHERE YOU CAN GO AND JUST GET FREE FOOD, SO SHE INVITED ME TO COME TOO...
AND SO NOW, SHE'S GETTING LOTS OF FLIERS FROM WEDDING HALLS.
PLEASE COME IN.
We'll stop!
Knock it off!
Oh, she's here!
THEN, I'LL TICKLE YOU TO MAKE YOU LAUGH!
Sigh
I... I'M FEELING NERVOUS FOR SOME REASON

!
...HM?
HELLO...
NO WAY, KAZAMA-KUN!?
M... MATSUSHITA-SAN!?
SH... SHE'S MY SENIOR AT WORK...
BUT, WHY...?
EH? WHAT?
DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
I TOLD EVERYONE THAT I WAS BEGGED TO DO AN OMIAI AND WASN'T ATTENDING SERIOUSLY, BUT...
ACTUALLY I'M THE ONE WHO'S ASKING TO DO THEM...
Hehe

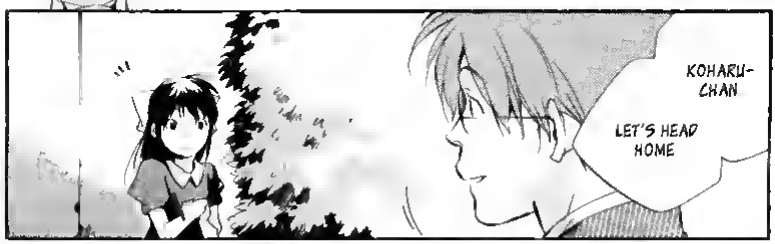
T/N: THE COMING OF AGE CEREMONY IS ATTENDED THE YEAR ONE TURNS 20

WELL I'M SORRY I WAS THE ONE WHO CAME...
IS THAT RIGHT?
I THOUGHT, "OH WELL," AND CAME WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE PICTURE.
WHEN I HEARD THAT THE OMIAI PARTNER WAS COMING AS A FILL-IN, AND HAD A KID...
I'M SURE YOU COULDN'T TELL IT WAS ME FROM THE OMIAI PICTURE, SINCE IT'S FROM MY COMING OF AGE CEREMONY.
THIS WAY I CAN RELAX AND EAT MY FILL BEFORE GOING HOME!
I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF RELIEVED.
PLEASE, IT'S FINE!
SORRY THAT SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BECOME YOUR STEP-MOM SHOWED UP.
OH, KOHARU-CHAN, HMM...
IT'S FINE...
LET'S HAVE THEM BRING THE FOOD!
YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
IT... IT'S KOHARU
OHH...
WHAT WAS HER NAME?
THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER?

THANKS, TODAY WAS A LOT OF FUN
LIKEWISE, I HAD A GOOD TIME
BUT TO THINK YOU'VE BEEN TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO GO ON OMIAI, MATSUSHITA-SAN...
I'M IMPRESSED
NAAAH, WELL...
NEXT YEAR I'M TURNING THIRTY

ONCE YOU COME TO REALIZE THE LIMITS OF WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO ON YOUR OWN,
THE CONFIDENCE THAT COMES WITH YOUTH CRUMBLES IN THE BLINK OF EYE...
I'VE ALWAYS FLIPPANTLY THOUGHT THAT I'D BE JUST FINE LIVING MY LIFE ALONE,
BUT NOW I'M AFRAID OF BEING ASEXUAL...
IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR ME, LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND, BUT...
I'M SURE YOUR SEARCH FOR A WIFE WILL BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT...
EH...?
AT FIRST I WAS EASY-GOING ABOUT THE IDEA, THINKING THAT...
AS LONG AS THE SITUATION WASN'T TOO COMPLICATED...
I'D BE ALL RIGHT WITH A MAN WHO HAS CHILDREN...
BUT...
NOW THAT THE REAL THING IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES,
I REALIZE THAT JUST BEING KIND TO THE CHILD WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH
SCOLDING THEM... HAVING TO DISCIPLINE THEM...
SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD, AND TRYING TO GUIDE THEM ON THE RIGHT PATH
I'M NOT A WHOLE ENOUGH PERSON TO DO THAT...

Y... YEAH...
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE OUT THERE WHO'S AS SOFT-HEARTED AS YOU, WILLING TO SKIP ALL THE USUAL STEPS AND SUDDENLY BECOME A PARENT...
YOU SHOULD BRACE YOURSELF
Hahaha...
WELL, LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!
I'LL SEE YOU AT WORK ON MONDAY


KOHARU-CHAN
LET'S HEAD HOME

SURE
AND LET'S STOP BY YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S ON THE WAY. I SHOULD LET HER KNOW HOW THINGS WENT
AND THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL HER...

I'M SORRY I KNOW IT WAS HARD FOR YOU...
DON'T BE
YOU'RE MOVING FORWARD, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST GOING TO AN OMIAI...
SO THE WOMAN WHO CAME WAS SOMEONE YOU KNEW FROM WORK...
I SEE...
I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN, AFTER ALL
YES, I'M SORRY
I'M SINGLE BECAUSE I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYONE WHO CAN COMPARE TO HER...
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU THINK I'M STAYING SINGLE OUT OF AN OBLIGATION I FEEL TOWARDS YOUKO-SAN, BUT...
EH...?
WHY CAN'T YOU BE PROUD OF THAT?
TO PUT IT SUCCINCTLY, THE DAUGHTER YOU BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD IS
TO ME THE MOST WONDERFUL PERSON

AS THE PERSON WHO LIVED WITH HER LONGER THAN ANYONE, YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
THAT IT'S NOT SO EASY TO BURY THE MEMORY OF HER WITH OTHER THINGS...
...
BUT I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAID TO ME, AS WELL
TO CHOOSE A NEW LIFE NOT FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR KOHARU-CHAN'S SAKE...
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY...

IF, IN THE FUTURE...
SHE TELLS ME SHE REALLY WANTS A MOTHER,
AND NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S CHASING AFTER YOUKO-SAN'S SHADOW...
THEN I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
SO I ASK YOU TO PLEASE WAIT, UNTIL THAT TIME COMES...

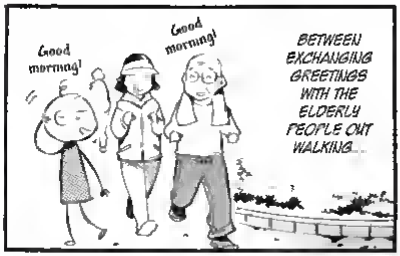
YOUR OMIAI PARTNER WAS KAZAMA-SAN...!?
WHAAA!?
NO WAY! I'M NOT SO DESPERATE THAT I'D MAKE A MOVE ON A GUY WITH A KID!
I'M NOT PREPARED TO BE A PARENT TO SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD
.....
THAT'S RIGHT! ISN'T IT LAUGHABLE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU...
HUH?
WHERE'D KATAGIRI GO?
IT CAN'T BE EASY TO LOOK FOR A WIFE WHEN YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A KID.
BUT STILL, IT'S GOTTA BE HARD FOR KAZAMA-SAN

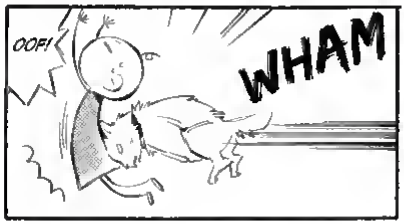
KAZAMA-SAN!
wheeze wheeze
OH? ARE YOU ALSO EATING LUNCH ON THE ROOFTOP KATAGIRI-SAN?
That's unexpected
IS...
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WENT ON A OMIAI WITH MATSUSHITA-SAN?
HUH?
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT, YOU ALREADY HEARD ABOUT IT? THAT'S EMBARRASSING
EH?
HOW CRUEL

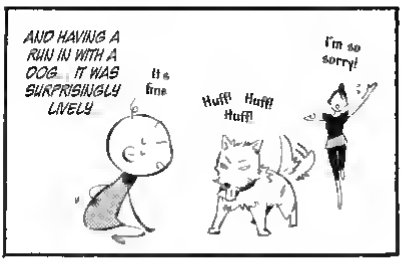
EVER SINCE I STARTED THIS JOB, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN HUNG UP ON YOUKO-SAN...
AND SINCE YOU TOOK KOHARU-CHAN IN,
YOU WERE RESOLUTE IN REMAINING FOREVER SINGLE...
BUT! BUT DESPITE THAT...
?
?
EVEN THOUGH I GAVE UP BECAUSE OF ALL THAT...
THIS IS JUST TOO CRUEL...

The 30th Day:FIN

WHEN I WENT TO THE PARK AT DAWN FOR A STROLL...


Good morning!
Good morning!
BETWEEN EXCHANGING GREETINGS WITH THE ELDERLY PEOPLE OUT WALKING...


OOF!
WHAM


AND HAVING A RUN IN WITH A DOG... IT WAS SURPRISINGLY LIVELY
It's fine
Huff! Huff! Huff!
I'm so sorry!

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 31st Day:The Shape of Marriage

SNAP
SNAP
IT'S SO HOT
Phew...
OH, KAZAMA-SAN! PULLING WEEDS, EVEN ON A SUNDAY?
WHERE'S KOHARU-CHAN?
OH, GOOD AFTER-NOON!
KOHARU-CHAN WENT OUT FOR LUNCH WITH THE ELDER SISTER OF ONE OF HER CLASSMATES.
IS THAT SO? YOU MUST BE LONELY BY YOURSELF.
IT'S REALLY HOT OUT TODAY, SO DO BE CAREFUL.
I WILL, THANKS

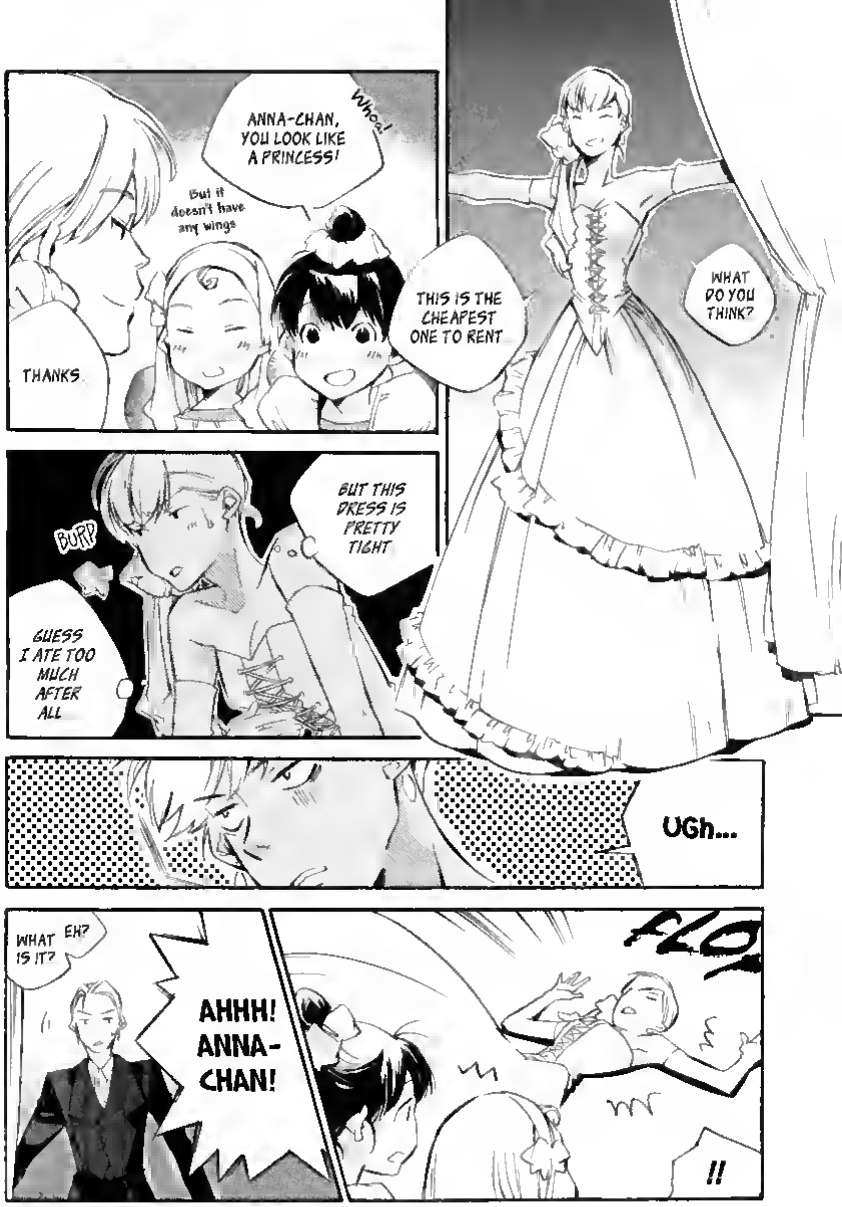
NUMBER EIGHT. DOWN THE HATCH!
Bridal Fair
Tasting & Dressing Exhibition
Ceremony Hall
YOU'RE TRYING ON DRESSES NEXT, YOU KNOW DON'T BLAME ME IF YOUR STOMACH STICKS OUT
H... HOLD ON, ANNA!
YOU'VE BEEN PIGGING OUT THIS WHOLE TIME...
BUT IT'S ALL FREE! IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO EAT AS MUCH AS I CAN...
You're such a worrywart, Shirou
YOU GUYS SHOULD EAT UP, TOO.
Yup!
Ok!
chew
chew
chew

UH...
UMM, ANNA-CHAN?
WHY ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?
WHAT?
He he!
WELL, DUH... I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GO JOB-HUNTING, AND IF I BECOME A WIFE, I WON'T HAVE TO WORK!
Job-hunting?
WHA!? THAT'S YOUR REASON!?
IT WAS A JOKE!
Sigh
F... FOR ME, IT'S BECAUSE ANNA IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYONE...
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL YOU CAN RELY ON ME, BUT
TO THINK YOU JUST WANTED A RELATIONSHIP WHERE YOU'D BE MY DEPENDENT

GRANDMA TOLD MASAMUNE-KUN THAT HE NEEDS TO GO ON AN OMIAI
I WONDER IF MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING PEOPLE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO...
I THINK PEOPLE WHO GET MARRIED ALL HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS FOR DOING IT, BUT...
F... FOR ME, TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO SHIROU, I'D WANT TO BE THE VERY FIRST PERSON THERE TO HELP HIM...
EH...?
I THINK IT'LL BE OKAY IF YOU'RE THERE FOR HIM.
NOT THAT IT'S REALLY NECESSARY IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU DO IT OR NOT.
That's a relief
Got it?
AND MASAMUNE-SAN HAS YOU, KOHARU.

SO WHENEVER MASAMUNE-SAN'S IN TROUBLE,
HE'LL BE FINE IF YOU'RE THERE TO SAVE HIM.
OKAY!
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM.
Be safe!
HE SAID THE GRASS IN THE YARD'S GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL, SO HE'S PULLING WEEDS TODAY
SPEAKING OF MASAMUNE-KUN...
ISN'T HE OFF FROM WORK TODAY?
HE SHOULD'VE COME WITH YOU...

E... EXCUSE ME, AKIHO-SAMA AND YOSHIDA-SAMA?
IF YOU COULD PLEASE MOVE ON TO THE DRESSING AREA...
Ehh? Already?
OH, YES, THANK YOU
GUESS WE GOTTA GO
YOU GUYS SHOULD TRY ON SOMETHING TOO.
ta-da!
Yeah!
They have wings!


ANNA-CHAN, YOU LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS!
Whoa!
But it doesn't have any wings
THANKS
THIS IS THE CHEAPEST ONE TO RENT
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BUT THIS DRESS IS PRETTY TIGHT
BURP
GUESS I ATE TOO MUCH AFTER ALL
UGh...
WHAT IS IT?
EH?
AHHH! ANNA-CHAN!
!!

HEY!
ANNA, WHAT'S WRONG!!?
AH, HOLD ON...
HER BREATHING'S SHALLOW...
WHICH MEANS...
Shirou-kun!
Waaah!
What do we doo? Shirou!
Waaah!
THANK GOD!
cough cough
BWAAH!
HONESTLY! DON'T WEAR SUCH A CONSTRICTIVE DRESS AFTER FIGGING OUT LIKE THAT...
SHUT UP, THIS WAS THE CHEAPEST ONE!

I'LL TRY TO SAVE MASAMUNE-KUN, JUST LIKE SHIROU-KUN SAVED ANNA!
YEAH, HE WAS LIKE A PRINCE!
He he
EH?
SHIROU'S LIKE A PRINCE!

MASAMUNE-KUN, I'M HOME!
WHA... WHAT'S WRONG, MASAMUNE-KUN?
OH, KOHARU-CHAN WELCOME BACK
WEEELL, LOOKS LIKE I OVERDID IT WITH PULLING WEEDS AND GOT TOO TIRED...
HUP
BUT I'M FINE NOW.

THUD
...
SWAY
Y...
YEAH
SHALL WE MAKE SOME SHAVED ICE?
MA...
ARE YOU OKAY? MASAMUNE-KUN!?
WHAT'S WRONG?
MASA-MUNE-KUN!

~~...!
WH... WHAT SHOULD I DO? I HAVE TO MOVE HIM INSIDE...
HEY, WAKE UP! MASAMUNE-KUN!!
Hnnn!
H... HANG IN THERE!
I'LL GET YOU INSIDE!
COME ON, WAKE UP!!

WAH!
SLIP
WAAAH...
WHAT DO I DOOO?
WAAAH!
WAAAH!

IT... IT'S MASAMUNE-KUN...
HE'S...
OH DEAR! IS THAT KOHARU-CHAN?
WHY ALL THE CRYING?
I... I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE...
YOU CLEARLY DON'T HAVE MUCH PHYSICAL ENDURANCE, SO DON'T OVERDO IT LIKE THAT!
You idiot!
THE DOCTOR SAID YOU ALMOST GOT HEATSTROKE!!
WHO PULLS WEEDS UNTIL THEY COLLAPSE!?

I'M REALLY SORRY KOHARU-CHAN...
I SCARED YOU, DIDN'T I?
WELL TAKE IT EASY FOR THE REST OF TODAY.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF KOHARU-CHAN
THANK YOU
OH, WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?
SHALL WE GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE HEADING HOME?
FORGET ABOUT HIM, HE'LL BE FINE!
UH... UMM, GRANDMA...
DIDN'T YOU COME TO TALK TO MASAMUNE-KUN ABOUT GOING ON OMIAI?
EH?
OH, NO, I GIVE UP!
HE'S NOT THAT POPULAR ANYWAY, I'M LETTING IT GO
THAT'S NOT TRUE
HE'S A WONDERFUL SOON
Oh, sorry

AND ABOUT THE OMIAI
RIGHT NOW MASAMUNE-KUN STILL CARES VERY MUCH ABOUT YOUKO-SAN, BUT
HE PROMISED THAT IF A TIME COMES THAT YOU WANT A MOTHER OTHER THAN YOUKO,
HE'LL LOOK FOR SOMEONE

NOW, WHAT SHALL WE HAVE TO EAT?
I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU..
A MAMA THAT'S NOT
MAMA...

.....
YOU PASSED OUT JUST FROM PULLING WEEDS?
WHAT KIND OF PATHETIC SHUT-IN ARE YOU!?
cackle cackle
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
YES, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN.
.....
!!
BZZZT

EH?
AH!
Y... YES!
I AM!
KATAGIRI-SAN, ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
OH YEAH!
HUH?
SORRY TO BE A BOTHER, BUT COULD I ASK YOU TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS AND PUT IT ON THE BOSS' DESK...?
SO I WANTED TO GO NOW TO BUY SOME
I WAS THINKING I'D MAKE CURRY FOR DINNER TONIGHT,
WELL, ACTUALLY THIS ONE SUPER-MARKET IS HAVING A GREAT SALE ON POTATOES AT NOON

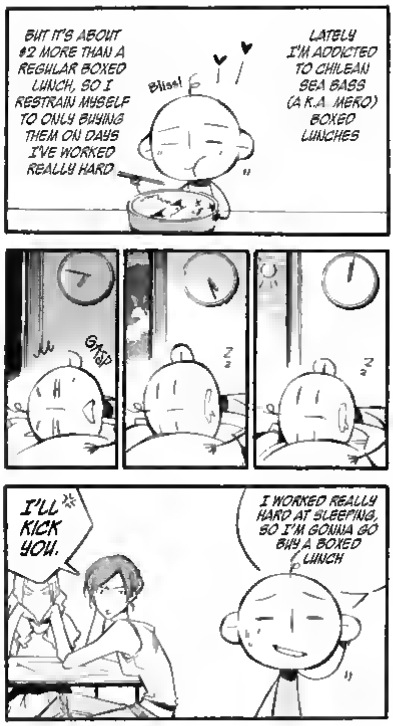
SORRY! THANKS FOR YOU HELP
H—
—NN
Who knows
What's with her?

I'M SORRY, MAMA...
BUT BY MYSELF.
BY MYSELF...
I CAN'T SAVE MASAMUNE-KUN..

I THINK TONIGHT'S CURRY IS PRETTY GOOD!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHECK THE TASTE TOO?

PLEASE GO TO AN OMIAI, MASAMUNE-KUN.
HUH?
AND THEN PLEASE GET MARRIED.
WH WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM, KOHARU-CHAN?
DID MY MOTHER SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
DON'T WORRY, JUST IGNORE WHAT SHE SAYS
I HAVE YOUKO-SAN, SO...
SHE'S GONE!

SHE'S NOT HERE..
ANYMORE.
SO..
PLEASE LOOK FOR A NEW MAMA.
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU..


LATELY I'M ADDICTED TO CHILEAN SEA BASS (A.K.A. MERO) BOXED LUNCHES
Bliss!
BUT IT'S ABOUT ¥2 MORE THAN A REGULAR BOXED LUNCH, SO I RESTRAIN MYSELF TO ONLY BUYING THEM ON DAYS I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD
Gasp
I WORKED REALLY HARD AT SLEEPING, SO I'M GONNA GO BUY A BOXED LUNCH
I'LL KICK YOU.

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 32nd Day:
Your Feelings, My Feelings

WAKABA SEMINARS
WAK
03-
SEMINARS
XX-XXXX
AHAHA!
SHUU, WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP?
SHUT UP.
QUIT LOOKING AT ME AND SCOOT OVER

WOW!
SHUU-KUN, YOUR MOM GOT REMARRIED?
MY MOM'S WEDDING CEREMONY
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LEFT SCHOOL EARLY TODAY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
!
YEAH, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALREADY SO OLD, SUCH A PAIN
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANNA GO, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE
WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO GO?
WASN'T IT FUN?
?
HUH?
OF COURSE IT WASN'T FUN!
AND ALL HIS RELATIVES...
JUST THINK THAT I'M IN THE WAY.
WHY?

WHY?
"WHY?" ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I'M HER PREVIOUS MAN'S KID...
OH, FORGET IT! YOU'RE EXHAUST-ING...
grimmace
THINK ABOUT HOW IT LOOKS TO PEOPLE. OF COURSE THEY WISH I WASN'T AROUND...
WITH MASAMUNE-KUN BEING THE WAY HE IS,
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING REMARRIED.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU GET IT OR NOT.
.....

HOW EXACTLY IS THIS MY FAULT!?
KAZAMA
KOHARU-CHAN SAID HERSELF THAT SHE WANTS A MOTHER, RIGHT?
THEN YOU SHOULD FIND ONE FOR HER!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!
SHE WOULDN'T SAY THAT TO ME WITHOUT SOME SORT OF REASON!
I SAW SOMETHING SCARY ON TV, SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH MAMA TONIGHT.
MORE THAN ANYONE,
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WOULD SUDDENLY WANT A NEW MOTHER, JUST LIKE THAT...
KOHARU-CHAN STILL HOLDS YOUKO-SAN PRECIOUS TO HER.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, BUT CHILDREN ARE A LOT STRONGER THAN YOU THINK
THEY SHOW INTEREST IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS
MORE THAN SINGLE-MINDED ADULTS, CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD
!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S USING YOUR CHILD AS AN EXCUSE TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS?
STOP BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M...
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT PARENTS NEED TO FIND HAPPINESS AND LET THEIR CHILDREN SEE THEM HAPPY...
FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

.....
GO PICK KOHAKU-CHAN UP.
H-HER CRAM SCHOOL WILL BE ENDING SOON...
.....
OH
YEAH, RIGHT...
EXCUSE ME...
SLAM...
HUH?
DID MASAMUNE-KUN ALREADY GO HOME?
.....

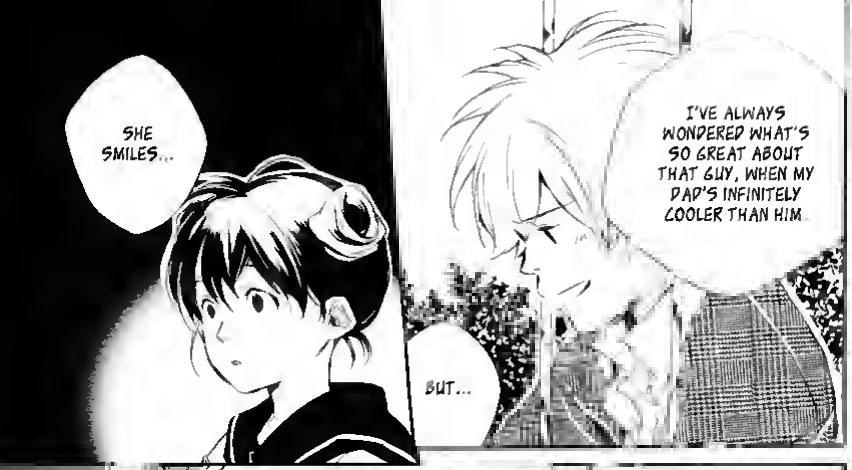
A LONG TIME AGO...
I TOLD OUR YOUNG SON THAT THE CAMERA LENS WAS TO A CAMERA, WHAT AN EYEBALL IS TO A HUMAN.
EH...?
Ha ha
YOU SAID SOMETHING HARSH AND SENT HIM OFF AGAIN, HUH.
N...
NO, I DIDN'T!
EVERY-THING I SAID WAS TRUE.
EVERY DAY AFTER THAT,
HE WOULD PLACE HIS AFTERNOON SNACK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA.
I JUST IGNORED IT, THINKING IT WAS ONE OF THOSE SILLY THINGS KIDS DO,
BUT AFTER A MONTH WENT BY,
HE CAME TO TELL ME IN ALL SINCERITY THAT HE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND THE CAMERA'S MOUTH.
!

HE THOUGHT IF HE PUT HIS SNACK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, THAT THE MOUTH WOULD OPEN UP...
AND THAT IF HE COULD FIND ITS MOUTH, IT MIGHT TELL HIM HOW TO TAKE GOOD PHOTOS...
HE WAS WORRYING ABOUT SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING FOR THAT WHOLE MONTH.
...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, CHILDREN HAVE A WIDE FIELD OF VISION,
BUT JUST LIKE MASAMUNE SAID, THE WAY THEY WORRY IS UNEXPECTEDLY COMPLEX AND ILLOGICAL.
YOU WERE BOTH HALF-RIGHT, SO CALL IT A DRAW
I'M GOING OUT FOR SOME CIGARETTES

BE CAREFUL HEADING HOME!
BYE SENSEI!

HUH? WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE HOME YET, SHUU-KUN?
OH... WELL, THERE WAS A PHONE CALL EARLIER
FOR SOME REASON MY DAD'S COMING TO PICK ME UP...
ARE YOU WAITING FOR MASAMUNE?
YEAH.
THAT'S NICE.

WELL MY MOM DID GET REMARRIED TODAY, SO I BET HE'S FEELING LONELY.
GOD, RELYING ON HIS KID FOR SUPPORT...
HOW PATHETIC...
.....
THE GUY MY MOM JUST GOT MARRIED TO...
HAS A POTBELLY, HE'S TOTALLY LAME.
HUH...?
COME ON, YOU CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM, RIGHT?
HIS LOOKS ARE AVERAGE, AND SO IS HIS INCOME.
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS. HE'S JUST YOUR AVERAGE OLD DUDE


SHE SMILES...
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THAT GUY, WHEN MY DAD'S INFINITELY COOLER THAN HIM...
BUT...

WHEN SHE WAS WITH MY DAD AND I, SHE WAS ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY OR LOOKING SAD...
BUT WHEN SHE'S WITH HIM, SHE SMILES...

SO I REALIZED IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

IT'S A GOOD THING.
IF THIS GIVES EVERYONE PEACE OF MIND...
WELL, IT'S OVER NOW, ANYWAY.
.....

II
SWING
HYAH!
I'M REALLY GOOD AT SWINGING!
WHOA!
STOP IT, IDIOT!
HUH!?
LISTEN TO...
I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP!

.....
!
YOU'RE A BIG DUMBASS, MOM!!
BUT..
WHAT KINDA MORON CHOOSES A SUCH A DOPEY GUY!?
DAMMIT!
YOU'VE GOT AWFUL TASTE!

STILL...
FROM NOW ON, I DEFINITELY WANT HER TO BE HAPPY...
YEAH.

I'M REALLY SORRY I'M LATE.
BUT I'M GLAD SHUU-KUN WAS THERE TO WAIT WITH YOU
OH!
A LADYBUG
ME TOO

I WONDER IF THERE ARE POTATO FIELDS AROUND HERE OR SOMETHING...
WOW, THERE'S A LOT OF THEM.
AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
.....
H...HEY, KOHARU-CHAN?
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE YOU WANT A NEW MOM?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT,
AND REALIZED THAT IT'S THE BEST THING TO DO.

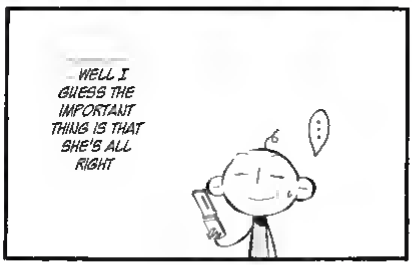
B... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUKO-SAN?
DOES.. YOU WANTING A NEW MOM MEAN THAT... YOU..
I STILL LOVE MAMA VERY MUCH.
TH... THEN WHY..
B... BUT I...
I LOVE YOU JUST AS MUCH AS I LOVE HER.

I... I'M SURE THAT A NEW MAMA WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
AND IF YOU'RE HAPPY, MASAMUNE-KUN,
THEN I'M SURE I'LL BE HAPPY TOO.
AND GRANDMA SAID SO TOO, REMEMBER?
THAT IT WOULD SURELY GIVE MAMA PEACE OF MIND...
BUT NOT JUST MAMA, ME AS WELL..
I WANT PEACE OF MIND...
.....!

The 32nd Day:FIN

YOU ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?
THERE WAS A PRETTY BIG EARTHQUAKE ONE MORNING, SO I GAVE MY SISTER A CALL TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS OKAY...
Well I didn't even notice there was an earthquake but...

WHEN I WOKE UP, MY FACE AND PILLOW WERE TOTALLY DRENCHED IN BLOOD. SO THAT WAS A LOT MORE SURPRISING...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT A NOSEBLEED WHILE I WAS SLEEPING...


WELL I GUESS THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SHE'S ALL RIGHT

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You.

The 33rd Day: Rainy Day Coward

I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, ESPECIALLY ON A SATURDAY...
TSUKAMOTO
NOT AT ALL, YOU'VE BEEN RETURNING HOME ON TIME EVERY DAY, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL WORK'S PILED UP
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF KOHARU-CHAN
WELL, I'M OFF.
I'LL BE BACK BY EVENING, SO UNTIL THEN!
BE SAFE!

PSHH
WAAAH!
I'M GETTING ON!
The doors at platform two are closing...
2
GEEZ!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET UP THERE WITH YOUR SHOES ON?
IF YOU CAN'T BEHAVE YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY AT HOME!
BUT I WANTED TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW RIGHT AWAY...

THE TRAIN ON SATURDAY ...
IS ALWAYS FULL OF FAMILIES GOING ON OUTINGS...
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO STAY SINGLE FOREVER!?
.....

IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CRITICIZED FOR THAT...
NAH...
WORK'S JUST PILED UP...
COMING TO WORK EVEN ON A SATURDAY, HOW ADMIRABLE!
OH? WHY IF IT ISN'T KAZAMA-SAN! GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING...
THE OFFICE IS PRETTY EMPTY ON THE WEEKENDS
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HERE...
IT'S KIND OF NICE...
clatter

tap tap
...IT GIVES ME AN UNUSUAL SENSE OF URGENCY, AND SOMEHOW MAKES IT EASIER TO CONCENTRATE.
RIGHT NOW...
WHEN A PLACE THAT'S USUALLY SO NOISY IS THIS QUIET...
HMM, WHAT'S NEXT...
AND FOR KOHARU-CHAN'S SAKE, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING...
OF COURSE I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE...
I'M GRATEFUL FOR ANY DISTRACTION FROM DEALING WITH THE ISSUE...
I'M SURE IT WOULD GIVE YOUKO PEACE OF MIND...

HUH? KAZAMA-SAN!?
KATAGIRI-SAN
EH? WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
YOU'RE WORKING EVEN ON A SATURDAY?
OH, YEAH I'VE GOTTEN BEHIND ON WORK, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE CARE OF IT ALL IN ONE FELL SWOOP...
AND YOU?
I... I, WELL... REMEMBER THOSE PUDDINGS WE GOT FROM A CUSTOMER THE OTHER DAY...?
I REMEMBERED THAT THE EXPIRATION DATE ON THEM WAS TODAY,
AND THOUGHT I MIGHT SNEAK IN TO EAT SOME...
O... KAY...

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TOO, KAZAMA-SAN?
YEAH, SURE.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE ONE
Ha ha
OH,
WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER ONE?
NO, ONE WAS PLENTY.
BUT CAN YOU REALLY EAT THAT MANY, KATAGIRI-SAN?
Is that your fourth?
NO PROBLEM!
THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PERKS OF BEING A SECRETARY,
SO I WANNA EAT MY FILL!

UH... UMM! IF I CAN BE OF ANY USE, I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP
HAHA...
I SEE.
THANKS, BUT I CAN HANDLE IT.
BESIDES, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I NEED TO THINK ABOUT ALONE...
OH... RIGHT
ANYWAY, IT'S THE WEEKEND. YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME!
TH... THEN I'LL BE GOING...

SHAAA
DRIP
...
AND... THAT'S IT!
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY LATE...
I SHOULD HEAD HOME...

WS
HH
WHEN DID IT START..
HUH!?
IT'S RAINING!?
I DIDN'T BRING THE LAUNDRY IN BEFORE COMING HERE...
NOW IT'S GOING TO GET RUINED...

I MADE IT TO THE STATION...
BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE AFTER ALL
WHOA!? WHAT'S WRONG, KATAGIRI-SAN!?
YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER I ENTERED THE COMPANY?
HUH?
ON MY VERY FIRST DAY, I SPILLED TEA ON A COPIER AND BROKE IT
EVERYONE ELSE WAS JUST LAUGHING, BUT...
YOU CAME WITH ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR IT.
EH...

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
EVER SINCE THAT TIME, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU...
THAT WAS THE START OF IT...
THINKING, "HE REALLY IS A KIND AND CONSIDERATE PERSON."
I CAN'T MOVE PAST THESE FEELINGS...
BUT AS I THOUGHT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOUR RESPONSE IS, UNTIL I HEAR IT...
AND AGAIN, WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE TAKING IN YOUR CHILD, I TOLD MYSELF TO GIVE UP ON YOU
WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE STILL HUNG UP ON A WOMAN NAMED YOUKO-SAN...

IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE YOU COULD COME TO LIKE ME EVEN JUST A LITTLE...
OR IF THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN ME, CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME?
IF NOT, I...
CAN'T MOVE FORWARD...
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, I WANT YOU TO START LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE...
.....

KAZAMA-SAN!
FWIP
I... I'M SORRY...
I DON'T KNOW

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT PARENTS NEED TO FIND HAPPINESS AND LET THEIR CHILDREN SEE THEM HAPPY.
FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?
WHO PASS THEIR DAYS NORMALLY
COMPLAIN THAT THE NORMALITY IS BORING, BUT...
PEOPLE
AND GRANDMA SAID SO TOO, REMEMBER? THAT IT WOULD SURELY GIVE MAMA PEACE OF MIND...
I ALSO...
WANT PEACE OF MIND...
WHEN THERE'S A HUGE CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES...
THEY SUDDENLY BECOME COWARDLY,
AND TRY TO PRESERVE THAT NORMALITY

BUT...

K... KAGAMA-KUN!?
UMM... TSUKA-MOTO-SAN.
UH!
SORRY, GO AHEAD.
I... HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT THE LIBRARY LATELY, SO...
I BROUGHT THIS, IF YOU STILL WANT IT...
WHAT'S UP? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...?
UH... WELL... I...

W... WEEELL... ACTUALLY I...
STARTED LIKING YOU...
I'VE BEEN... AVOIDING THE LIBRARY..
EH ..
.....
HUH?
B... BUT THAT'S WHY. I DON'T WANT THESE FEELINGS TO GROW ANY MORE THAN THIS,
SO I WON'T MEET WITH YOU ANYMORE, OKAY?
AND I DON'T ACTUALLY EXPECT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US, DON'T WORRY!
OH, NO! I'M WELL AWARE THAT I'M FOUR WHOLE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU,

BUT I'LL GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THIS.
GOODBYE.
P...
PLEASE EXPECT SOMETHING.
UH... UMM... IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BY JUST HOW MUCH I LIKE YOU...

SO...
PLEASE EXPECT SOMETHING.
THEN...
I WILL!

BUT YOUKO-SAN...
K...
KATAGIRI-SAN!
I...
I HAVE A DAUGHTER THAT'S IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
I'M STILL...

I HAVE TO PUT HER ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.
AND SHE IS EXTREMELY PRECIOUS TO ME.
...THIS MUCH...
I DON'T THINK I CAN GO OUT WITH SOMEONE...
THE WAY NORMAL PEOPLE CAN.
...
...THIS MUCH...

I ALSO NEED TO FACE FORWARD, SO...
Squeeze
LET'S GO OUT...
...IN LOVE WITH YOU.
TRUTHFULLY I CAN'T GIVE YOU A DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO WHAT YOU ASKED...
BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND THAT...
SO I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS PATH...
I'M CHOOSING...

...ISN'T A MISTAKE ...

LET'S GO OUT...

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...
To The 34th Day...

You're More Beautiful Than Anyone...

I HAVE A MEMORY OF PUTTING MAKE-UP ON MY SLEEPING FATHER WHILE PLAYING WITH MY SISTER WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

T/N: KOHARU'S YUKATA IMPLIES THAT THE FISH WERE WON AT A STREET FESTIVAL. SOME JAPANESE BATHTUBS CAN BE TURNED ON TO HEAT UP THE BATHWATER. SO HE MUST'VE TURNED IT ON TO DRAW A BATH WITHOUT REALIZING THERE WERE FISH IN THERE.

The Folly of Ignorance

WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL I PUT SIX FISH IN THE BATHTUB. MY MOTHER BRILLIANTLY BOILED THEM ALL UP FOR ME...

AFTERWORD

WHILE WORKING THIS TIME, I WAS BLESSED WITH THE CHANCE TO MEET LOTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE. I COULDN'T SEE IT BEFORE, BUT NOW I TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT UP UNTIL NOW I'VE BEEN SAVED BY SO MANY PEOPLE.

I KNOW I'M A PRETTY UNSOCIABLE PERSON... AND I COULDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO SAY A SINGLE CLEVER THING... AND THAT ALL I MANAGED WAS A STRAINED SMILE AND BOWING MY HEAD... BUT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I AM MORE GRATEFUL THAN ANYONE COULD BE.

THANKS TO THEM, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FINISH YET ANOTHER BOOK. EVEN NOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO HIDE MY WORK, BUT I ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN CREATING WORKS THAT I CAN CONFIDENTLY SUBMIT FOR PUBLICATION.

THANK YOU.

SAHARA MIZU,
SEPTEMBER 2009

MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 27

SCANS, TRANSLATION & EDIT:

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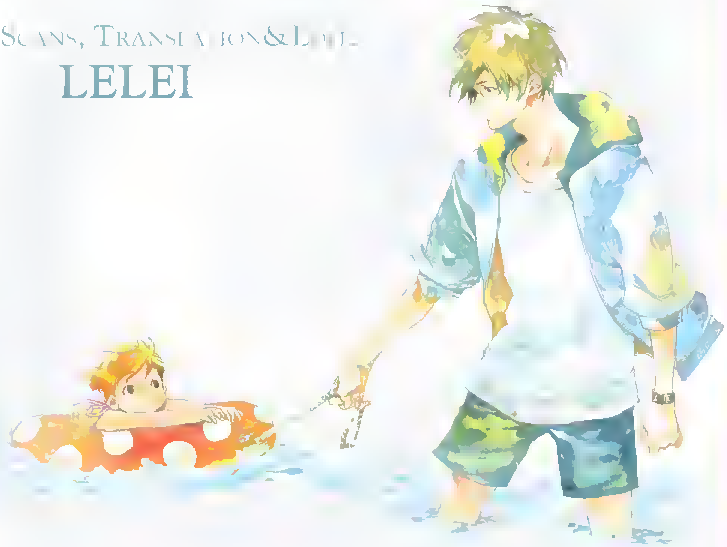

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 28

SCANS, TRANSLATION & LETTER

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 29

SCANS, TRANSLATION & EDIT:

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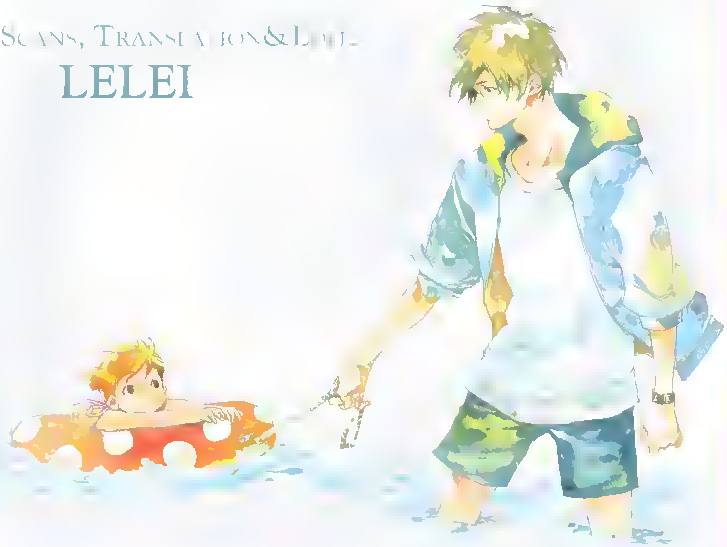

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 30

SCANS, TRANSLATION & LETT...

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 51

SCANS, TRANSLATION & EDIT:

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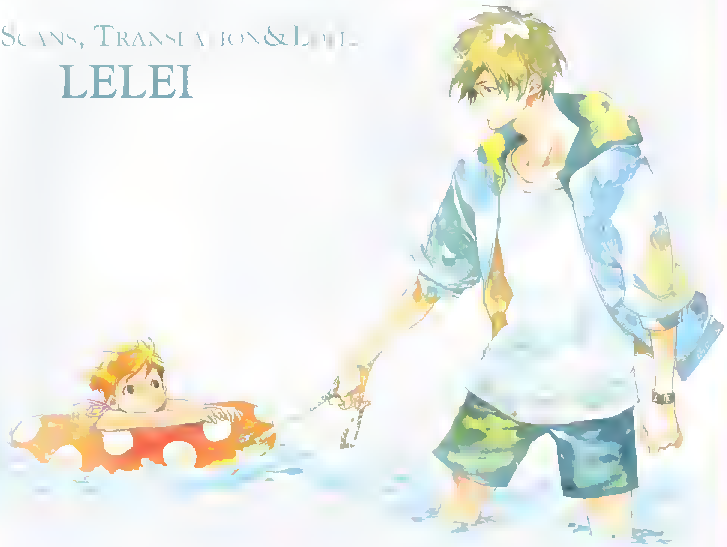

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 32

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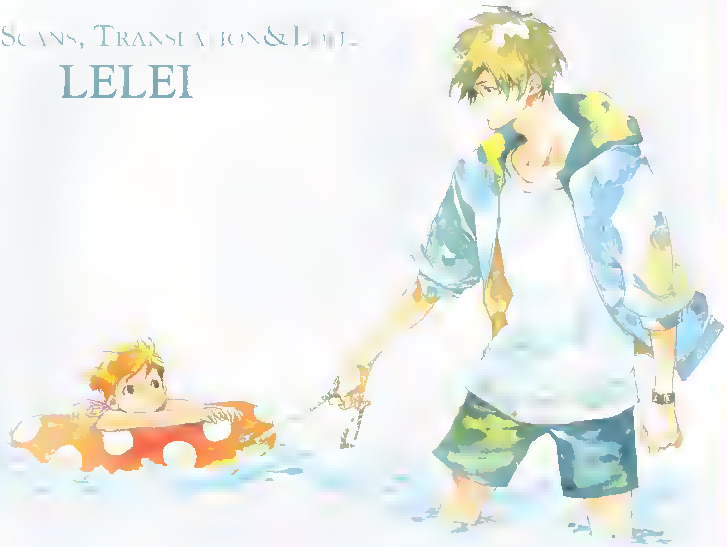

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MY GIRL

BY SAHARA MIZU CHAPTER 33

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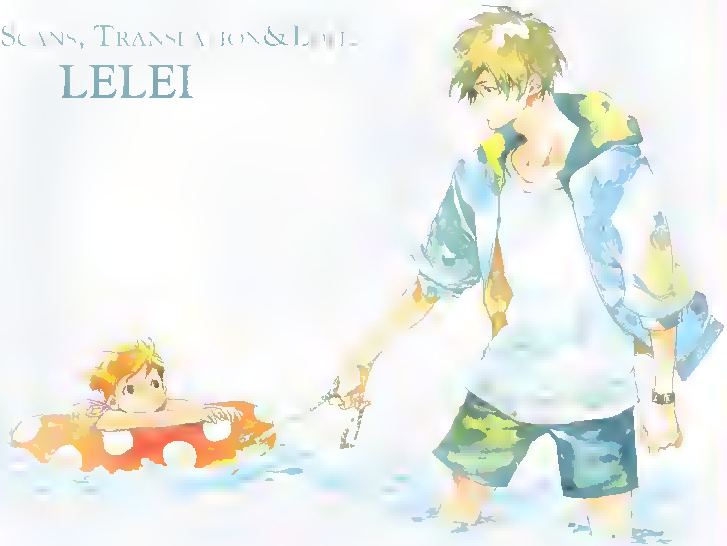

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